

33849

SERVICE DATE - AUGUST 8, 2003

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20423**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

AB 33 (Sub No. 206X)

**UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY – ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION – IN
POLK AND STORY COUNTIES, IA**

BACKGROUND

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed a Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 CFR 1152 for authority to abandon, its Ankeny Subdivision from milepost 10.7 near Ankeny to milepost 341.1 near Slater, a distance of 14 miles in Polk and Story counties, Iowa. A map depicting the rail line in relationship to the area served is appended to the report. If the exemption becomes effective, the railroad will be able to salvage track, ties and other railroad appurtenances, and to dispose of the right-of-way.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The railroad has submitted an environmental report that concludes the quality of the human environment will not be affected significantly as a result of the abandonment or any post-abandonment activities, including salvage and disposition of the right-of-way. The railroad has served the environmental report on a number of appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies as required by the Board's environmental rules at 49 CFR 1105.7(b). We have investigated the record in this proceeding. Also, we have contacted appropriate agencies and individuals to verify the railroad's report and to obtain additional information and comments regarding the potential environmental effects of the proposed abandonment: Department of Transportation, National Park Services, National Geodetic Survey, Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Officer, National Park Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Coastal Zone Management Program.

Environmental Analysis

No local or overhead traffic has moved over this line for two years. There will be no diversion of rail traffic to motor carriage. Inconsistency with regional and/or local land use plans is not anticipated. The proposed abandonment should not have adverse impacts on prime agricultural land or farmland resources. The proposed abandonment is not expected to have any effect on the transportation of energy resources. Adverse impacts on air quality and noise level

are not expected. No critical habitat or other fish or wildlife resources is expected to be destroyed, altered or affected as a result of the proposed abandonment. Any water quality effects from the proposed abandonment should be minimal. No wetlands are anticipated to be adversely impacted.

HISTORIC

The applicant submitted an historic report as required by the Surface Transportation Board's environmental rules [49 CFR 1105.8(a)]. The applicant served the report on the State Historical Society of Iowa (Historical Society) pursuant to 49 CFR 1105.8(c). The Historical Society is currently reviewing the report to determine if any of the bridges on the line are potentially eligible for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places*. Therefore, we recommend that UP retain the line unaltered until completion of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f.

CONDITIONS

The applicant submitted an historic report as required by the Surface Transportation Board's environmental rules [49 CFR 1105.8(a)]. The applicant served the report on the State Historical Society of Iowa (Historical Society) pursuant to 49 CFR 1105.8 (c). The Historical Society is currently reviewing the report to determine if any of the bridges on the line are potentially eligible for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places*. Therefore, we recommend that UP retain the line unaltered until completion of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the information provided from all sources to date and subject to the recommended condition, we conclude that, as currently proposed, abandonment of the line will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the environmental impact statement process is unnecessary.

Alternatives to the proposed abandonment would include denial (and, therefore, no change in operations), discontinuance of service without abandonment and continued operation by another operator. In any of these cases, the existing quality of the human environment and energy consumption should not be affected.

PUBLIC USE

If abandonment and salvage of the rail line does take place, the right-of-way may be suitable for other public use. A request containing the requisite four-part showing for imposition of a public use condition (49 CFR 1152.28) must be filed with the Board and served on the railroad within the time specified in the Federal Register notice.

TRAILS USE

A request for a notice of interim trail use (NITU) is due to the Board, with a copy to the railroad, within 10 days of publication of the notice of exemption in the Federal Register. However, the Board will accept late-filed requests as long as it retains jurisdiction to do so. This request must comply with the Board's rules for use of rights-of-way as trails (49 CFR 1152.29).

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The Board's Office of Public Services (OPS) responds to questions regarding interim trail use, public use, and other reuse alternatives. You may contact OPS directly at (202) 565-1592, or mail inquiries to Surface Transportation Board, Office of Public Services, Washington, DC 20423.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS

If you wish to file comments regarding this environmental assessment, send an **original and two copies** to Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K St. N.W., Washington, DC 20423, to the attention of Phillis Johnson-Ball, who prepared this environmental assessment. **Please refer to Docket No. AB - 33 (Sub-No. 206X) in all correspondence addressed to the Board.** If you have questions regarding this environmental assessment, you should contact Phillis Johnson-Ball at (202) 565-1530.

Date made available to the public: 8/8/03

Comment due date: August 25, 2003

By the Board, Victoria Rutson , Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis.

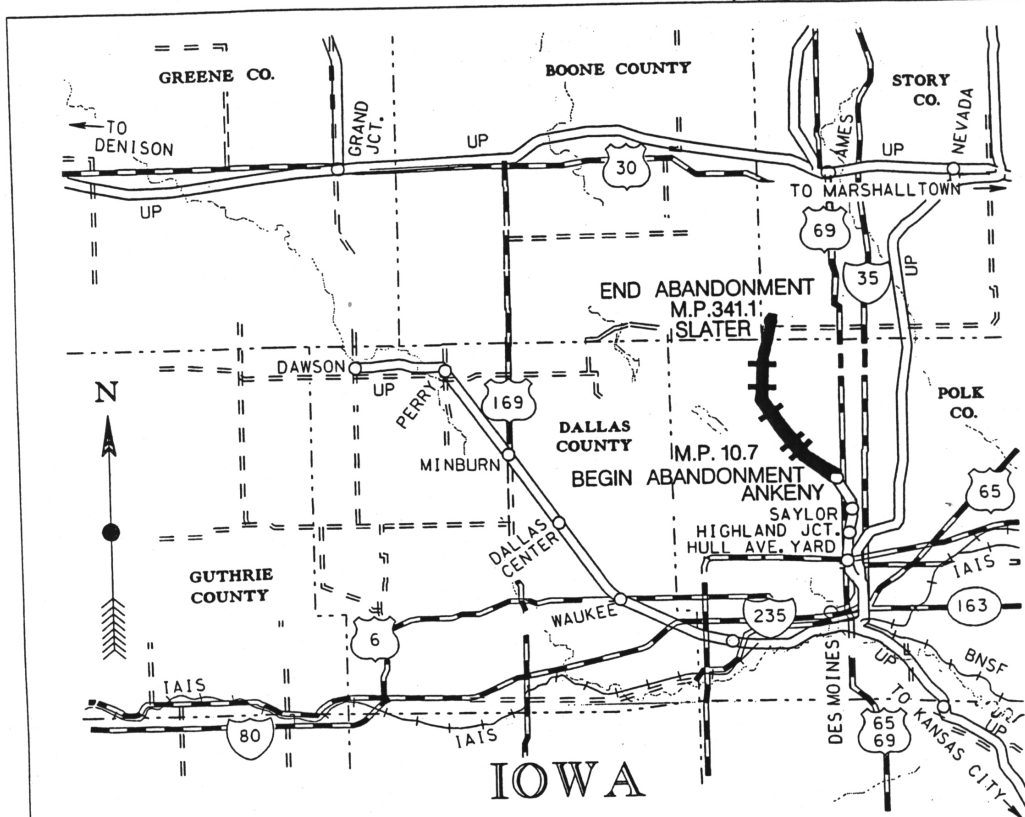
Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

Attachment

ID- 33849

Attachment 1

AB-33 Sub 206X



STATION	MILE POST	AGENCY
SLATER	339.80	NO

BRIDGE NO.	BRIDGE TYPE	TOTAL LENGTH	DATE
BR 2074	6 SP TPT	84'	1944
BR 2076	1 SP TPT	14'	1963
BR 2081	1- 20' BEAM SPAN	20'	1914
BR 2087	1- 18' BEAM SPAN	18'	1913
BR 2103	1- 24' BEAM SPAN	24'	1913

LEGEND

- RR LINES TO BE ABANDONED
- OTHER UPRR LINES
- OTHER RAILROADS
- 50+ YEAR OLD STRUCTURES
- PRINCIPAL HIGHWAYS
- OTHER ROADS

Ankeny Subdivision
M.P. 10.7 TO M.P. 341.1 (EQUATION: 23.20 = 339.80)
ANKENY SUBDIVISION A TOTAL OF 14.0 MILES
IN POLK & STORY COUNTIES, IOWA

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
ANKENY SUBDIVISION

INCL. 50+ YEAR OLD STRUCTURES

SCALE 0 2 4 6 8 10 MILES

FEBRUARY 14, 2003

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